

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EA-06 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03

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TAGS: ETRD, OECD

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL ACTION ON COMMODITIES

REFS: A) STATE 118339; B) OECD PARIS 12684;
C) OECD PARIS 12719

FOLLOWING ARE RESULTS OF MAY 21 HEADS OF DEL MEETING
REGARDING TREATMENT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS AT MINISTERIAL.

1. COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE (REF B): UK (GALLAGHER) CIRCULATED NEW TEXT OF PARAS 7 THROUGH 10 OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE INCORPORATING NUMEROUS UK AMENDMENTS (UK TEXT TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL). SEVERAL DELS SUPPORTED UK CHANGES IN PARA 10 WHICH THEY FELT MADE LANGUAGE LESS CONFRONTATIONAL, BUT FRANCE SAID AMENDMENTS MADE COMMUNIQUE WEAK ON SUBSTANCE. FRANCE AND SEC GEN SUPPORTED RETENTION OF PORTION OF ORIGINAL PARA 8 REFERRING TO INVESTMENT. DANES, HOWEVER, PREFERRED SUBMERSION OF INVESTMENT IDEA IN MORE GENERAL UK VERSION OF PARA 8. SWEDEN WANTED PHRASE "STABLE AND REMUNERATIVE PRICES" ADDED IN FIRST
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LINE OF PARA 7. AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN EXPRESSED DOUBTS

ABOUT ACCEPTABILITY OF PARA 9 BUT DID NOT OFFER REPLACEMENT. CANADIANS SUGGESTED COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE EXCESSIVELY LONG AND DETAILED AND PROPOSED CUTTING OUT EVERYTHING EXCEPT PARA 7 AND LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 10. US DEL PROPOSED CHANGES PER REF A AND COMMENTED ON PERSONAL BASIS THAT HE BELIEVED ORIGINAL LANGUAGE FOR SUBPARAS OF PARA 8 CLOSER TO US VIEWS THAN UK REDRAFT. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF NOT PREJUDGING RESULTS OF STUDY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY HIGH LEVEL GROUP, AND WAS SUPPORTED IN THIS BY JAPAN AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION. SECGEN OBJECTED TO US PROPOSAL FOR OPENING OF PARA 8 SAYING OUTCOME OF MINISTERIAL WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTING TO LDCS IF IT ONLY INVOLVED FURTHER STUDY. US DEL REPLIED THAT OECD MEMBERS ARE STILL LONG WAY FROM AGREEING ON COMMODITY POLICY, THAT MANY GOVERNMENTS ARE STILL WORKING ON INTERNAL POLICY STUDIES, AND THAT WHILE DRAFTING CHANGES MIGHT GET AROUND ADVERSE PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE WORD "STUDY", FACT THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES STILL AT BEGINNING OF ROAD IN THIS AREA COULD NOT BE IGNORED.

2. HIGH LEVEL GROUP (REF C): SEVERAL DELS EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH SECGEN'S PROPOSAL FOR A HIGH LEVEL GROUP BUT AUSTRALIA AND CANADA EXPRESSED RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT XCSS SUMMING-UP AS TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR GROUP'S WORK. AUSTRALIA PROPOSED INSTEAD GENERAL MANDATE FOR GROUP "TO UNDERTAKE SUCH WORK AS IS NECESSARY, TAKING ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE, XCSS AND THE MINISTERIAL". FRANCE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AUSTRALIAN IDEA. (AUSTRALIANS WILL PRODUCE OWN WRITTEN VERSION OF MANDATE MAY 22). CANADIANS PROPOSED UK VERSION OF PARA 10 OF COMMUNIQUE BE USED AS MANDATE. DUTCH SUGGESTED XCSS BE INVITED TO DESIGN MANDATE BUT SECGEN REPLIED PERMREP COUNCIL SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH QUESTION IN ADVANCE OF MINISTERIAL MEETING. US DEL NOTED HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS AS YET ON QUESTION OF HIGH LEVEL GROUP BUT STATED US WAS ACTING ON ASSUMPTION THAT DECISION TO ESTABLISH GROUP WOULD BE TAKEN AT TIME OF MINISTERIAL AND NOT BEFORE.

3. MISSION COMMENT: OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT SECRETARIAL OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARIAT DRAFT OF "MEAT" IN PARA 8 IS CLOSER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S THREE TRACK APPROACH OUTLINED IN MAY 13 KANSAS CITY SPEECH THAN ARE UK IDEAS, WHICH RESEMBLE GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF KINGSTON PROPOSALS. IN VIEW OF SIMILARITY BETWEEN SECRETARIAT DRAFT AND SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS, MISSION RECOMMENDS US TRY TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN INTRODUCTION TO PARA 8, AND CONSIDER AGREEING TO LANGUAGE SUCH AS : "MINISTERS AGREED ON THE NEED TO

DEVELOP SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR AN ACTIVE POLICY ON
COMMODITIES, WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE: " UNLESS INSTRUCTED
TO THE CONTRARY BY TIME OF NEXT HEADS OF DEL MEETING
(4:30 P.M. PARIS TIME MAY 22), WE WILL TAKE THESE
POSITIONS AND SUPPORT AUSTRALIAN IDEA FOR SHORTER,
MORE GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR HIGH LEVEL GROUP,
WHICH REFER TO DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN
TRADE COMMITTEE, XCSS AND MINISTERIAL. TURNER

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